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(71) Applicants and

- (72) Inventors: OREN, Ran [IL/IL]; Kibbutz Gaaton, 25130 Doar Na Oshrat (IL). MOOR, Dan [IL/IL]; Kibbutz Gaaton, 25130 Doar Na Oshrat (IL).
- (74) Agent: G.E. EHRLICH (1995) LTD.; 11 Menachem Begin Street, 52 521 Ramat Gan (IL).
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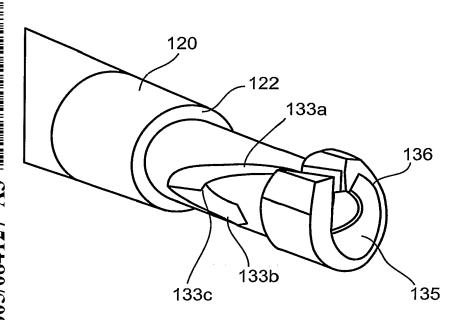
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(54) Title: SUTURE MANIPULATING AND CUTTING IMPLEMENT



(57) Abstract: An implement for manipulating a knotted suture (150) during a surgical procedure, includes an elongated shaft (130) having a proximal end engageable by the user for manipulating the instrument, and a distal end engageable with the knotted suture (150) to be manipulated. The distal end (132) of the elongated shaft (13) has an end face (134) formed with a recess (135) for receiving the knot (151) of the suture. The distal end (132) of the elongated shaft (130) is formed with an open slot (133) starting from a location spaced from the end face (134) and leading to the recess (135) in the end face, such as to enable the knotted suture (150) to be introduced into the slot (133) and the recess (135) by effecting a sidewise movement. The implement further includes a tubular cutter member (120) enclosing the elongated shaft (130)

and formed with an annular cutting edge (122) engageable with a suture in the open slot (133) of the shaft (130) upon movement of the elongated shaft (130) with respect to the tubular cutter member (120), or by vice-versa.